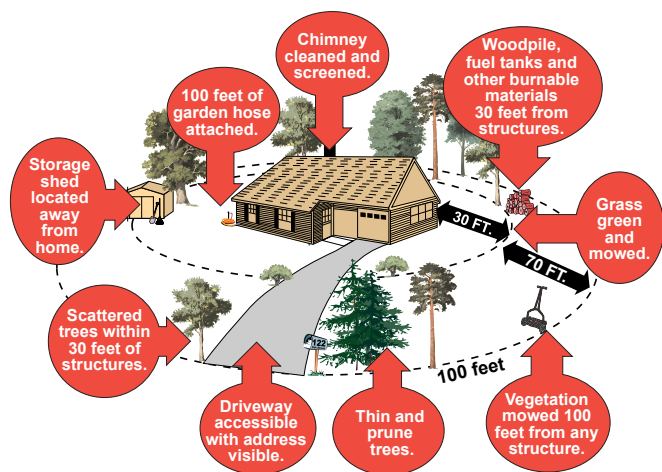


**Now that you know the facts,  
let's review the five steps you  
can take to protect your home.**

**You can create smart defensible  
space by following these five steps:**

- Remove dead shrubs, dried grass, fallen branches and dried leaves from 100 feet around your house.
- Trim and separate plants and shrubs to stop fire from spreading.
- Remove ladder fuels which are plants, shrubs and branches that let a fire on the ground climb into the trees.
- Clear five feet around the base of your house and fill it with fire resistant plants or materials like rocks or gravel.
- Take care of the clean, open space 100 feet around your home on a regular basis.



**FACT:**

These five steps will improve the chance that your home and family can be saved in a wildfire.

**Do your part and take responsibility!**



For more information, visit  
[www.CAFireAlliance.com](http://www.CAFireAlliance.com)



**Take Responsibility...**

**Fact  
or myth?**

**Homes don't  
have to burn  
in a wildfire.**



[www.CAFireAlliance.com](http://www.CAFireAlliance.com)

# Take Responsibility...

**Learn the facts, and protect your home and family by creating defensible space!**

**IT'S A FACT:** There *are* simple things you can do to help protect your home from wildfires.

**MYTH:**  
**If there is a wildfire and my home is in danger, firefighters will do all they can to save it.**

**FACT:**  
Firefighters and emergency professionals do all they can to stop wildfires, but they have to be smart and they will look for homes and buildings that are easier to protect. Homes with defensible space are the homes that firefighters look for, because they are safer to go near and easier to save.

**MYTH:**  
**It is against the law to remove trees and vegetation.**

**FACT:**  
Laws about removing trees and shrubs are different across the state. Contact your local fire station and ask what you can do and work with them to solve any problems.

**MYTH:**  
**It is expensive to create and keep a defensible space around my property.**

**FACT:**  
It doesn't have to be expensive to create and maintain defensible space. Removing dead trees, plants and leaves and thinning shrubs and trees can be very affordable.

It is also important to remove ladder fuels. Ladder fuels are low tree branches and shrubs under trees that allow a fire to climb higher and spread faster.

**Defensible space** is 100 feet of clean, open space around your home. This is important if you live in the wildland urban interface (WUI) which is the area where houses and buildings meet the forest, trees, grassy fields or any area with lots of plants and shrubs. In these areas, fire moves fast between trees and buildings so there is a greater chance that wildfires will come near homes and people.

**MYTH:**  
**It doesn't matter what I do, wildfires will come and destroy all that is in their path.**

**FACT:**  
It *does* matter. Making a clean, open space 100 feet around your home can help firefighters save it and your family and pets. The photo below is a perfect example of how defensible space saved this person's property.



*A home with 100 feet of defensible space can be the difference between one that burns and one that survives.*

**MYTH:**  
**Creating 100 feet of defensible space around my property will not allow me to have a nice yard.**

**FACT:**  
Correctly done, your yard can look great and contribute to the health and variety of natural areas.